We claim:

1. A method for operably securing a cardiac support device around a mammalian heart; the cardiac support device being loosely positioned over the heart; the cardiac support device including a jacket constructed of a flexible material; the method comprising:
   (a) simultaneously forming a plurality of offsets in the jacket material; and
   (b) inserting a fastener through the offsets.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein:
   (a) said step of inserting a fastener includes inserting a suture through the offsets.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein:
   (a) said step of inserting a fastener includes inserting a needle with a suture attached thereto through the offsets.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein:
   (a) said step of simultaneously forming a plurality of offsets includes forming a plurality of undulations.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein:
   (a) said step of simultaneously forming a plurality of undulations includes forming a plurality of regular, continuous folds in the jacket material.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein:
   (a) said step of simultaneously forming a plurality of offsets includes clamping together jacket material.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein:

(a) said step of clamping includes squeezing the jacket material between opposing clamp members.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein:

(a) said step of squeezing includes squeezing the jacket material between first and second opposing clamp members;

(i) the first clamp member having a first plurality of peaks and valleys;

(ii) the second clamp member having a second plurality of peaks and valleys;

(A) the second plurality of peaks sized and arranged to mateably engage the first plurality of valleys; and

(B) the second plurality of valleys sized and arranged to mateably engage the first plurality of peaks.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein:

(a) said step of inserting a fastener through the offsets includes inserting a needle having a suture attached thereto through a passage defined by the first clamp member and the second clamp member.

10. A method according to claim 9 further including:

(a) after said step of inserting a fastener, releasing the first clamp member and the second clamp member from the cardiac support device.

11. A method according to claim 9 wherein:

(a) said step of inserting a needle having a suture attached thereto includes pulling the suture through the offsets until a T-bar secured to the suture abuts one of the first clamp member and second clamp member.

12. A method according to claim 1 wherein:

(a) the jacket includes material having first and second lateral edges defining a slot therebetween; and

the method further comprises:

(b) aligning at least a portion of the first lateral edge with at least a portion of the second lateral edge to form an aligned region.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein:

(a) said step of aligning is conducted concurrently with said step of simultaneously forming a plurality of offsets.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein:

(a) said step of simultaneously forming a plurality of offsets includes clamping the first lateral edge and the second lateral edge together.

15. A method according to claim 12 wherein:

(a) said step of inserting a fastener through the offsets includes inserting a suture through the offsets to secure the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein:

(a) the cardiac support device includes a jacket comprising a continuous flexible mesh net with a base edge, an opposite apex, the first and second lateral edges extending from the base edge, and the open slot extending between the first and second lateral edges from the base edge and terminating at the apex; and

(b) said step of inserting a fastener through the offsets to secure the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge includes securing an entire length of the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge from the apex to the base edge.

17. A device for operably securing a cardiac support device around a mamalian heart; the cardiac support device comprising a jacket made of flexible material and being sized to have excess material when initially positioned around the heart; the device comprising:

(a) a jaw arrangement with cooperating pleat forming members;

(i) the pleat forming members having a height sufficient to gather the excess material; and

(ii) the pleat forming members being constructed and arranged to form pleats in the excess material.

18. A device according to claim 17 wherein:

(a) the jaw arrangement defines a needle-accommodating groove.

19. A device according to claim 17 wherein the jaw arrangement includes:

(a) a first clamp member defining a first engagement surface;

(i) the first engagement surface having pleat forming members including a first row of peaks and valleys and a second row of peaks and valleys;

(ii) said first row being spaced from said second row to define a first clamp member groove;

(b) a second clamp member defining a second engagement surface;

(i) the second engagement surface having pleat forming members including a third row of peaks and valleys and a fourth row of peaks and valleys;

(ii) said third row being spaced from said fourth row to define a second clamp member groove;

(c) said first clamp member and second clamp member being moveable into and out of mateable engagement;

(i) mateable engagement including:

(A) the first row of peaks projecting into the third row of valleys;

(B) the third row of peaks projecting into the first row of valleys;

(C) the second row of peaks projecting into the fourth row of valleys;

(D) the fourth row of peaks projecting into the second row of valleys; and

(E) the first clamp member groove and the second clamp member groove together form an open channel.

20. A device according to claim 19 wherein:

(a) the first clamp member further includes a first aperture extending at least partially therethrough; and

(b) the second clamp member further includes a second aperture extending at least partially therethrough.

21. A device according to claim 20 further including:

(a) tongs having first and second extensions;

(i) said first extension being held by said first clamp member through said first aperture; and

(ii) said second extension being held by said second clamp member through said second aperture.

22. A device according to claim 17 wherein:

(a) the jaw arrangement is straight.

23. A device according to claim 17 wherein:

(a) the jaw arrangement is curved to follow an outer contour of a heart.